



JOHN C. STEVENSON / Staff

A group from Easley Christian School plays around with a soccer ball during an outing to Table Rock State Park on Wednesday.

Road atlas designates Table Rock a 'must-see'

Upstate park included in Rand
McNally's Best of the Road features

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A mention of Table Rock State Park in Rand McNally's 2010 Road Atlas has park officials hoping for even more visitors to the popular local destination.

Park manager Poll Knowland said gas prices and the shaky economy have already had a positive effect on park attendance, and the nod from the noted atlas maker can only help attendance.

"It's good advertising," Knowland said. "I like to think of my wife. When we're going cross-country, she'll look at all these places and say, 'Wow, we've got to see this.' It opens up a whole new venue for the travelers."

Located in Pickens County, Table Rock State Park is listed as one of the South Carolina stops on a "Best of the Road" feature. The listing includes a photograph of one of the waterfalls at the park, Knowland said.

"Every year our editors seek out and drive some of the best, most scenic road trip routes in the nation to find our Best of the Road winners," Laurie Borman, Rand McNally editorial director, said in an announcement. "The spots we've highlighted really capture the charm and local flavor of the destinations."

Knowland said 2009 has already been a busy year at the park.

"When the times are tough, such as these eco-

nomic times we have now, people are looking for things close to home," he said. "We're busy. We are busy."

Knowland said most of the park's visitors this year have traveled from Georgia and North Carolina, as well as the Upstate and other parts of the Palmetto State.

"They are looking for the quality places where they can have good, quality times with the family or with friends," he said.

With camping sites and cabins in high demand so far this year, Knowland said reservations are a must. But he urged day-trippers to call ahead as well, to find out what will be going on during their visits.

"We might have special programs that day," he said. "We might be able to give them something extra."